

Meeting Notes

Group 1:

Plan Format and Content:

Make plan concise, less timid, less vague

Include definitions and use less 'plannerese'

Make it a progressive plan, ready to take on challenges

Read emails for additional information

Add 'requirements' and provide disincentives

Provide action plans

Big Picture:

Energy and climate

Land use – make King Street better

Energy independence

Mass transit and bikes

Improve energy codes

Global warming

Careful use of remaining land

Minimize development of undeveloped land

Localize food security

Green the city

Link CPA funds with preservation and sustainability

Economic feasibility

Downtown/support local businesses

Population and age "who is being invited?"

Set an example and leadership for energy

Include literacy

Convert open space to better sequester carbon

Include relocalization

Goals and Objectives:

Need to expand downtown and let fringes be developed

Suburban is not a good term

Reword LU-5 to include infrastructure support

Connect transit/development

Support farmers

Close off downtown to provide pedestrian only events

Increase diversity of businesses

Mandatory green buildings – provide gap funding if necessary

Stores and businesses must recognize their regional position

Need street benches and policy to handle vagrancy

Provide satellite parking and shuttles to downtown

Provide artists space on a regional basis (in Easthampton?)

Need a regional perspective

Need new businesses that export (high tech?)

Attract non-profits for jobs and knowledge base

Regional car pooling

Create an energy commission and officer position

Change EC-1 to add 'conventional energy demand'

Change ED-4 to 'sustainable business'

Highlight ED-5

Make ED-7 an action

Group 2:

Land Use:

Greener than green – exceptional, more than any other place in the country

All future development must show net benefit for environment, economics, social

Need to defend farmland with soil and water conditions

Evaluate cost/benefit of land use and infrastructure development

Stronger connectivity by bike and foot

Concentrate development in multiple nodes

Safer streets – traffic as land use and contributions to the neighborhoods

Economic Development:

More jobs

More small/home-based businesses

Use regional connections to promote economic development

Improve average wage rate and link to types of businesses

Land use as economic opportunity – provide incubators

Affordable business rentals

Performance standards related to regional context?

Big Picture:

Transportation

Resources and time to meet goals

Can city act re: energy prices?

React to the demographic – look at demographic impacts

Quality of life

Establish basis of sprawl vs. non-sprawl

Define subareas

Actually define subareas for overlay districts

Promote variety

Affect on regional actions MEPA, MHD etc

Look for mutual aid opportunities/regional solutions solid waste and open space

Group 3:

Guiding Principles:

Conservation

Affordable housing and Living wage

Energy depletion in land use and transportation

Alternative economic development

Neighborhood environmental merit badges

Humane metropolis

City survival

Increase employment

Food security

Readable and visionary

City scale

Immediate need for solutions

Maintaining a "special" city

Utilizing all forms of energy]

Balance of population and resources
Social equity
Smart growth
Look at past development to learn for better future
Process
Become a model city for the future

Land Use:

New Urbanist model is status quo for food and energy and not supportable, infill limits opportunities
Need small agricultural spaces in dense areas
Not a realistic assumption that population remains constant
Infill in city is critical
Reformat plan to be geographically focused
Support those that live in the downtown
LU-4 is vague
Add infrastructure as pre-requirement for development
Green city by reducing heat islands
LU-5 add concern about erosion
Balance recreational use with use of meadows and waterways
Replicate Intevale from Burlington VT
LU-7 -consider overall energy budget and efficiencies in determining location of new building
Work with natural systems on site

Economic Development:

ED-1 - note that economic strength is built on those who are here as well as drawn here
Reword for alternate parking options
Promote alternative energy production as a means to drive economic development
ED-2 Increase the living wages
ED-3 Improve above ‘ensure’
Encourage building up instead of out
Support local businesses who can no longer afford high rents (subsidy?)
ED-4 Provide support for green business
Obtain support from businesses in return
Provide incentives to attract sustainable business/manufacturing
Provide “neighborhood” stores
ED-5 – Anna Marie
Tap into technology transfers
Integrate Smith VOC and CSA for growth of local produce
ED-7 Parking demand is elastic
Need TMD options prior to additional parking
Consider minimizing money spent to get people downtown